

“What Do I Need to Know About the Camp?”

Our Wilderness Camp is designed to be an exciting, enjoyable and memorable experience. To ensure your child has the best experience possible, please go over this information with your child before camp.

Camp Dates and Times

Dates: Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, December 27-29, 2014

Times: Saturday - 10:30 am – 7:30 pm

Sunday – 10:30 am – 7:30 pm

Monday – 11:30 am – 9:30 pm

Camp hours: The late hours of the camp are designed for us to enjoy sunset, twilight, and some hiking as the sky darkens. The last night we do an exciting exploration of the desert in the dark followed by a campfire.

Safety: To ensure your child's safety, we ask that you drop off and pick up your child(ren) inside the Education Center. We will not release your child until they have been signed for. Thanks for understanding and helping to ensure your child's safety.

Cost: \$40.00 per child. Space is limited and reservations are required.

Registration and Payment: To secure your child's spot in the camp, reservation documents and camp fees must be received no later than Friday, February 14th by the close of business. Refunds will not be made for cancellations within 72 hours of the beginning of the camp. Please note that your child must attend all 3 days and that she/he will not be released early or be allowed to arrive late. We do not have the staff to escort them in/out of the base camp area.

Pick Up, Drop Off, and Family Campfire Event

Please drop off and pick up your child at the Overlook located at the upper end of the road at the very end of the large, open parking lot. (See directions). There are porta potties on the right and a small shed with a canopy on the left. Every evening 30 minutes before pick up we will have a campfire, hot chocolate, and marshmallows for roasting available while you wait for your child. The view is beautiful, the stars are plentiful, and coyotes may be howling. On the last night of the camp, a brief graduation celebration will be held around the campfire. Please join us any, or all evenings to enjoy the night, friends, and fun around the campfire in your local National Park.

Camp Preparation

Hiking - We will spend much of the day outside hiking and exploring. It can be windy and cold. Some of the travels will be off trail, through the brush, and up steep mountain terrain. It can be tiring if your child is not used to hiking but plenty of breaks are taken. All hikes are conducted in a safe manner with awareness for each child's ability. We also do a night hike and provide the children with head lamps. There are stickers and spines in many areas we will be hiking. While the hikes are designed to be age appropriate, some of them can be challenging.

Down Time – We also spend plenty of down time whether at our base camp, or out on a hike. During this down time kids eat, converse and interact with each other and the camp staff, snooze, and play games. Just like camping! So there is plenty of time to rest, relax, and enjoy a camping atmosphere.

Water - Please make sure your child has two 16 ounce containers of water in plastic bottles only. There are drinking fountains at the Education Center, but none along any of the trails where we will be hiking. Please do not substitute soda for water.

Clothing - Participants should wear sturdy shoes for the hikes. Sandals, flip-flops, or open-toed shoes are not permitted. Sunscreen, sunglasses, and hats are strongly recommended. Every participant will be given their own camp T-shirt at the start of the camp. Do have your child bring warm outer layers such as long sleeved shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies. Dressing in layers allows for easy adjusting to warming or cooling temperatures. Long pants verses shorts – you decide. There are pros and cons to both. Your child can bring both and switch if needed. The wash which we hike in can be very cold in the morning. Low temperatures can sometimes be near freezing. Please dress your child warmly. Should it rain, we provide ponchos.

Lunch/Snacks - Please provide your child with plenty of snacks and drinks and also a lunch each day. We offer 2-3 snack breaks every day. We will provide a snack before the night hike. A hungry camper is not a happy camper. As we will be outdoors for much of the day, please do not send them with food that requires refrigeration. Food cannot be purchased in the park.

Backpacks – Children must bring a small, well-fitting day pack for the camp. It does not need to be a huge pack as children find this cumbersome. This will allow them to carry their lunch, water, and any extra clothing that they might need. Please let me know if this is an inconvenience as we may have a pack for you child to borrow.

Activities – We will be hiking, exploring, setting up tents, reading maps, using compasses, setting up emergency shelters, learning about camp fires, and cooking with light weight backpacking stoves. Children may sample, if they choose, hot chocolate, instant soups or noodles, and a backpacking meal. They will also discover and learn about many of the park's plants and animals.

Safety

No participant will be asked, or expected to do anything that they are not comfortable with doing. It is part of enjoying nature and exploring the outdoors to be aware of potential dangers and one's own limitations. We expect safety to be the number one priority in all that we do for all who are participating.

- Drink water frequently during the camp. Especially if it is warm.
- Always wear sunscreen.
- Always stay with the group. Never go off alone.
- When hiking, walk, don't run. Falls can be nasty in the desert.
- Venomous animals live in the desert. Always keep your hands and feet where you can see them. Never put them into cracks, under rocks, or into bushes. If we meet a rattlesnake, shout it out. We will back away and watch. Keep your eyes and ears open.
- Africanized bees are residents of the park and can be dangerous. Our staff is trained and prepared to handle this situation. If bees do attack we will run away. Bee alert! We will often hear them before we see them. They are not likely in the winter months. Please let us know if your child is allergic to bee stings and if they have any reaction to being stung.
- Be aware of your fellow camper and their actions.

Camp Rules

Remind children that they are visiting a National Park and that everything is protected. Rocks, sticks, flowers, and other neat objects must be left where they are found for others to enjoy.

Leave No Trace! Take only pictures, leave only footprints, and kill only time. Many children visit this area and we want to leave it natural and attractive for future campers. Bigfoot has been doing it for years!

Please walk. Running damages the park and can lead to a nasty fall. Climbing up the banks of a wash is not permitted. Ranger Chip is very fussy about this as it leaves ugly scars.

Use inside voices. Screaming scares away animals and may ruin nature's peace and quiet for other hikers. When others are talking, please show respect and listen to what they have to share.

Your camp counselors are experienced outdoor leaders. Please listen to them. They are there to help and to create a safe and fun experience. If you have a concern, let them know. They will help resolve any fears, questions, or worries.

The tents are for shade and rest. Food and water is not permitted in tents. While this is not bear country, we want campers to understand the principle of being safe with food and smells.

We will be outdoors, away from any restrooms, for up to 3 hours. If you have to go to the bathroom and we are a long way away from the restroom, tell your group leader or counselor. We have both male and female camp counselors.

Mp3 players and using cell phones other than to take pictures only is not permitted. In an emergency they may call you if needed.

Expected Behavior

This camp provides children the opportunity to enjoy and explore nature and wilderness in a safe and respectful manner. A participant who's actions is unsafe, to themselves or others, or who is disrespectful to staff, other campers, or the desert will be cautioned about their behavior. If the participant continues unsafe or disruptive behavior, parents will be notified. Participants unable to adjust their behavior after parental notification may be removed from the camp and not permitted to return. Safety is always first.

We look forward to this wonderful experience with your child. Please let me know before the camp if you, or your child, have any questions or concerns. We want this to be fabulous experience for your child.

Cheers,

Chip Littlefield
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